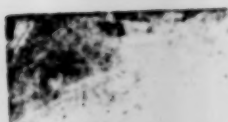


I
WOULD,
AND
would not.



LONDON,
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1614.



To the Reader.



On that reade, what you would
be, I know not; what you would
not be, you know your selfe: But
what you should be, God knowes:
But for my selfe, I haue founde
what is best to be, and so wisbe
other, except they neither knowe what they should
be: nor well what they would, or would not be: Scorne
it not, because it is in verse, or rime, for if you will
reade it, you maie perhaps finde more pleasure and
profit in it, then a worse piece of prose: not to per-
swade you to any thing, further then your liking;
I leaue the censure of it, to your discretion, and my
better Labours as they fall out, to your further con-
tenti. And so, loath to make you beleue more, then
perhaps you shall finde, hoping, that no man will be
angry with his owne shadowe, nor saie (meaning
me) when hee com's to a scile point: But take the best
and leaue the worst, and break none of the pale; as
kinde hearts doe in the Countrey: I rest, as you may
see in my Discourse, what I would, and would not
bee: and without would not, would bee as I should
be.

Your friend and well-willer,

B. N.



I
WOULD,

And would not.

1.

I Would I had, as much as might be had,
Of wealthy wishes, to the woldes content:
That I might liue, all like a lusty Ladde,
And scorne the world, and care not how it went:
But eate, and drinke, and sleepe, and sing, and play,
And so in pleasures, passe my time away.

2.

And yet I would not: for too wealthy then,
I should be troubled with a world of toyes:
Kinred, Companions, Troups of Seruing-men;
Fashion-Deuisers, Fooles, and Guirles, & Boyes:
Fidlers, and Iesters, Monkeys, Apes, Babounes,
Drunkards, and Swaggerers, and such trouble-
• (townes.

3.

Besides, I should forget to finde the way,
That leades the Soule to her Eternall blisse;
And then my state were at a wofull stay,
No, I would wish, a better world then this.
And in Afflictions, here on Earth to dwell, (hell,
Rather then seeke my Heau'n on earth, & run to

I would, and yet I would not.

4.
I would I were a man of such deepe wit,
As might discern the depth of every cause:
That wheresoever I did in Iudgement sit,
I might be held a Note-booke, in the Lawes,
My braine might seeme a kinde of miracle:
And every word I spake, an Oracle.

5.
And yet I would not, for then, woe were me,
I should be troubled with a world of Cases:
Both rich and poore, would then my Clients be,
Some, with their pleasing, some, with piteous fa-
And when the Rich had left their briberie, ces:
I should not rest for *Forma pauperie*.

6.
I would I were a man of greatest power,
That swaies a Scepter, on this worlds great Masse:
That I might sit on toppe of pleasures Tower,
And make my will, my way, where ere I passe:
That Lawe might haue her being from my breath,
My smile might be a life, my frowne a death.

7.
And yet I would not, for then, doe I feare,
Enuy or Malice would betray my trust:
And some vile spirit, though against the haire,
Would seeke to lay mine honor in the dust.
Treason, or Murther, would beset me so:
I should not knowe, who were my friend, or foe.
No,

I would, and yet I would not.

8.

No, I doe rather wish the Lowe estate,
And be an honest Man, of meane degree:
Be lou'd for good, and giue no cause of hate,
And clime no higher, then a Haw-thorne tree;
Pay euery man his owne, giue Reason, right:
And worke all day, and take my rest at night.

9.

For sure in Courtes, are worlds of costly Cares,
That Comber Reason, in his course of rest:
Let me but learne, how thrift both spends & spares;
And make enough, as good as any feast.
And fast, and pray, my daies may haue good end,
And welcome all, that pleaseth God to send.

10.

I would I were the fairest, sweetest Creature,
That could be painted, with the purest Art:
That Arte might wonder at the worke of Nature,
How so perfection made vp euery part.
That euery Eye that saw mee, might admire mee,
And euery heart, heard of me, might desire me.

11.

And yet I would not, for then, out alas!,
I should be troubled with a world of fooles:
When many a simple Idle headed Ass,
Would put his wits vnto some Poets schooles,
To learne to make a verse to flatter mee:
As there were no such louing foole as hee.

No,

I would, and yet I would not.

12.

No, I doe rather with the louely Browne,
Where vertues Beauty makes the Inward faire:
Then be the gallant Gazer of the towne,
And make mine honor, but a Barbers Chaire:
Whē none that had, with losse of treasure tride me,
Once finding my foule Inside would abide me.

13.

I would I were an Innocent, a foole,
That can do nothing else, but laugh or crie:
And este fat-meate, and nener goe to schoole;
And be in loue, but with an Apple-pie:
Weare a pike-Coate, a Cockes-Combe, and a Bell,
And thinke it did become me passing well.

14.

And yet I would not: for then should I not
Discerne the difference, twixt the good & bad:
Nor how the gaine of all the world is got,
Nor who are sober, wise, nor who are mad,
Nor in the Truth of foillies sence to see:
Who's the foole now? ther's no such foole as hee?

15.

I would I were a Fidler, and could play,
A thousand quauers in a minutes space:
And at a Bridale, brauely leade the way,
Before the Bride, and giue the Groome, a Grace.
That I might shake the head, and stare, and gape,
And make a thousand faces like an Ape.

And

I would, and yet I would not.

16.

And yet I would not: for ten to one
My fiddle, or my fingers should not rest:
But euery lacke a Lute would call vpon,
Such Moris daunces as doe like him best:
And euery wagtaile with a wanton Eye,
Would hang vpon me for a Heidegy.

17.

I would I were a Cuckolde Wittall Ass, (Saddle,
And car'd not who did mount my Hackney
Yet thinke I haue as true a louing Lasse
As ere lay in Swadling Clouts or Cradle:
And manerly goe to the Church before her, (her.
And would not heare, how many did bewhore

18.

And yet I would not: for then doe I feare, (them
My hornes would be so hard, I could not bide
And whē their weight were more thē I could beare
Alas I know not what to doe to hide them.
But euery one would say in bitter scornes,
Looke yonder goes a gallant paire of hornes.

19.

I would I were the arrant Cuckolde maker,
That euer answerde for his Aperne sport: (her
There should not scape a wench, but I would take
And set her to her worke in such a sort
That all the world should know, while I had health
I would not see an Idle Common-wealth.

B

And

I would, and yet I would not.

20.

And yet I would not : for then doe I doubt,
Bride-well and I, should wrestle for the Whippe :
And once got in, I hardly should get out :
Till I had soundly pay'd for Trully-Trippe,
Whē all the Beggars in the street would whoo me,
And do me all the shame, that they could do me.

21.

I would I were a most notorious Thiefe,
That might affright all true men, where I goe :
And when I made demaund, they might be brieft,
That in their Budgets doe my busines knowe.
And such as trauaile, with concealed treasure,
Should be but Stewards, to maintain my pleasure,

22.

And yet I would not: for then out of doubt,
Some dogge, or diuel, would for Coyne betray me :
Some priuy search, would surely finde me out, (me.
Or Watch, or Warrant, some way, would way-lay
And being caught, with Bills, & Clubbes, & stauces,
Bee guided, with a cue of beastly Slaues.

23.

Then to the Iustice, brought with such a Ioy,
As if some Campe, or Castle were surprisde :
Who knowing how such Stragglers doe destroy,
A world of wealth, hath presently deuise,
Vnto the Iaylers keeping to commend me :
Where I must stay, vntill the gallowes end me.

No,

I would, and yet I would not.

25.

No, I had rather leade a quiet life,
And feare to looke no true man in the face:
Keepe a poore house, maintaine an honest wife,
Trauell no further then the Market-place.
On Sundayes goe to Church, and home againe,
And with my neighbors, drinke a pot, or twaine.

26.

I would I were a Iuggler, and could play
A thousand pranks vpon a Pepper-corne:
And draw the wittes of Wyzardes, so away,
They all might wonder at a Bullockes-horne.
And with their purses, tunne and follow mee,
To make them thinke they see, they doe not see.

27.

And yet I would not: for then well I know,
Some Eye, or other, would my sleights descrye:
And to the world reueale my cunning so,
I could not answere for my Knauery. (crown,
But some Curst-queane, would either cracke my
Or Constable, would course me out of town.

28.

I would I were a Mill'er, and could grinde
A hundred thousand bushells in an houre:
And ere my Master and my Dame had orde,
Be closely filching of a bagge of Floure.
And send it to my Sweet-hart, for to make,
A Pudding-pie, a Pastey, or a Cake.

B 2

And

I would, and yet I would not.

29.

And yet I would not; least my Thumbs should be
Held all too great vpon my towing-dish:
And such as did my secret cunning see,
Might curse, and wish mee many a bitter wish:
And say, when they before the Mill-dore-stand,
The Millers-thumb's as broade as halfe a hand.

30.

No, I had rather fairely buye my bread,
And spend it as I get it honestly:
Then scarcely sleepe in quiet in my Bed,
When I but thinke vpon my subtilty;
To lay the wench along vpon the Sacke,
And steale her meale, ere she had turn'd her back.

31.

I would I were a Taylor, and could cut
A thousand yardes of Veluet out in threads:
And in my purse, the money closely put,
While simple hearts were beating of their heads,
With labours t'yle to keepe a poore estate,
Like honest *Cutberd*, and his bony *Kate*.

32.

And yet I would not: least by falshoods trade,
I should be call'd a stealer, that's a thiefe:
No, in no wise, by such meanes to be made
A Master-workman, were too great a grieffe.
No, Let me rather be an honest youth,
That neuer stole a yarde of stuffe in truth.

I would, and yet I would not.

33.

I would I were a Keeper of a Parke,
To walke with my bent Crosse-bow, & my hound,
To know my Game, and chuse sely in the darke,
To lay a barren-Doe vpon the ground
And by my *Venison*, more then by my *Fees*,
To feed on better meate then bread and cheefe.

34.

And yet I would not : least if I be spide,
I might be turned quite out of my walke ;
And afterwards more punishment abide,
Then longs vnto a little angry talke.
And cause more mischief after all, come to me,
Then all the good the Does did euer doe me.

34.

No, I had rather bee an honest Keeper,
To walke my Parke, and looke vnto my Pales ;
And not to play the sluggard and the sleeper,
And holde my Land-lord vp with idle tales.
Take but my *Fees*, be merry with my Dame,
And so to gaine, and keepe an honest name.

36

I would I were a Collyer, might sell Coles,
And fill my sackes a quarter full of dust :
And hauing emptied them in some darke holes,
Swear out my measure to be full, and iust.
Then laugh to thinke when I were gotten home,
How I had couzen'd a kinde-hearted *Mam*.

B 3

And

I would, and yet I would not.

37.

And yet I would not: least by my blacke face,
I might be held a Diuell then in deed:
And so to doe my fellowes all disgrace,
When many a one the worse for me should speed.
No, God forbid, let me be true and iust,
While other hide, the Diuell in the dust.

38.

I would I were a Gardiner, and had skill,
To digge and rake, & plant, and sowe, and slippe:
The *Caterpillar*, and the *Moule* to kill,
To proyne my Trees, and all my stalks to strippe.
And when to plucke my fruite, and sowe my seeds,
And how to keep my Gardein cleane frō weeds,

39.

And yet I would not: for then should I feare,
The *Thiefe*, the *Moule*, the *Worm*, & *blasting windes*:
I should not looke about me any where,
But I should finde some crosses in their kindes.
My Plants would wither, or my seedes would rot,
Or loose in one yeare, more then ere I got.

40

No, I would rather take the Markets happe,
And pay my Coyne, & keepe my minde in quiet:
And what I bought, to bring home in my lappe,
And when I come home, drisse it for my Dyct.
Then in my Gardein, watch a *Moule* or *Moue*,
And haue an other planting in my house.

41. I

I would, and yet I would not.

41.

I would I were a Painter of such Art,
As like *Appelles*, might abuse the Eye:
And to the life, so set out every part, (thereby,
That strange Conceits might bee deceiu'd
And I might vse my penfill in such sort,
As all the world should neuer make report.

42.

And yet I would not: for then doe I feare,
My heart might fall vpon Idolatry:
For while my hand were drawing of a haire,
I might be rapt into a thought too high.
When thinking to behold an Angels face,
Forget the diuell in an other place.

43.

No, I had rather onely learne to knowe,
The difference of my Colours in their kindes:
And haue a care, to set my shadowes so,
They may not be a hurt to blessed mindes.
And vse my penfill, on my cloath, and boord,
And for what price I might my paines affoord.

44.

I would I were a Merchant of all wares,
That I might furnish all both Rich and poore:
And what should fall vnto the Beggars shares,
I might haue plenty, alwaies at my doore.
My shoppe might be a Market of such state,
As all the world may stand and wonder at.

And

I would, and yet I would not.

45.
And yet I would not: for then doe I feare,
I should finde many a Begger in my booke;
And when I could my mony not forbear,
I might goe hang my credit on a hooke.
When if both Towne, and Countrey came vnto me,
In one, or both, some debtors would vndo me.

46.
No, I would rather be of meane estate,
Haue mony alwaies ready in my chest:
Be sure to buy my wares at the best rate, (best,
And sell good stufte, and serue my friends the
And cosen no man, with false weight nor measure,
But with true dealing make a poore mā's treasure.

47.
I would I were a practiser in Physicke,
To know my simples, Compounds, & my waters,
To heale the Rume, the Tooth-ach and the Tisicke,
The Cough, olde Aches, & such other matters,
That I might by my skill in generall,
Be held the Maister of the Vrinall.

48.
And yet I would not: for then day nor night,
I should haue quiet scarcely in my bed:
And in my Conscience haue full many a fright,
To heare my Patient suddenly were dead:
When by a Vomit, I had burst his heart, (part.
Or purg'd his guttes out through the nether
No,

I would, and yet I would nos.

49.

No, I had rather bee an Herbalist,
To know the vertue both of Hearbs & Rootes,
Then be too bolde and desperate *Alchymist*;
That ofte his weight and measure ouer-shootes,
And so, by either want of Care, or skill,
In steede of *Curing*, giue a killing-Pill.

50.

I would I were a high *Astronomer*,
That I might make my walke among the starres:
And by my insight might fore-see a farre,
What were to come, & talke of peace & warres
Of liues and deaths, and wonders to ensue,
Although perhaps, but fewe doe fall out true.

51.

And yet I would not: for then doe I doubt,
With too-much study. I should grow sturk mad:
When one Conceit would put an other out, (gad.
While giddy braines beyond themselves would
And seeking for the man within the Moone,
Mistake a morning, for an after-noon.

52.

No, I would rather learne no more to knowe,
Then of the times and seasons of the yeare:
What dayes the Fayres are kept, and how to goe
From towne to towne, & euery Sheer, to Sheere.
That *Townsmen* not their day-note-books slack,
And so to make an honest *Almanacke*.

C

35. I

I would, and yet I would not.

53.

I would I were a rare and sound *Civilian*,
And had the Lawes of honest loue by heart:
Would not corrupt my Conscience for a million,
Nor ever pleade, but on the honest part.
Examine strictly, and consider duely,
And forgive sentence to the matter truly.

54.

And yet I would not: for then might I heare,
How *Truth* gets hatred, for her honest minde:
And simple-Fees, doe make but sory cheare,
While true Plain-dealing hath but barely dinde.
When such as know the world, and how to vse it,
Seeing a Fee come faire, will not refuse it.

55.

I would I were a *Scriuener*, and could pen,
All kinde of writings, write all kinde of hands:
Be well acquainted with great *Monyed-men*,
And closely deale for all their goods and *Lands*.
And being furnisht fully, to my pleasure, (*Iure*.
Play them a trick, to make them look their *Trea-*

56.

And yet I would not: for then I am sure,
My Conscience would receiue a *Mortall-wound*:
And such a wound as neuer *Arte* could Cure,
By all the seates that euer *Scriuener* sound.
When if I scap't mine eares for *Forgery*,
My soule should goe to Hell for *Usury*.

57. No,

I would, and yet I would not.

57.

No, I had rather in a Copy booke
Write a good sentence for a Schollers reading:
Whereon the parents may be glad to looke,
And say, God send their hands a happy speeding.
And take my mony on the Saterday
For all the weeke, then bid my Boyes goe play.

58.

I would I were a Trades man, and could sell
My wares by weight, and measure as I list:
And had such trickes to make my market well,
That I might send home fooles with Had-I-wist.
That while poore soules did sit with losses crying,
I might growe Rich, with swearing, & with lying.

59.

And yet I would not: for my Conscience then,
Would make me feeble the sinne of falshoods woe:
When I beheld the ends of faithles men,
With what a horror to their Hell they goe.
While true plain-dealing hearts in quiet die,
And faithfull soules doth liue Eternally.

60.

I would I were a Broker, and for Coyne
Tooke any Pawnes, and care not what I tooke
For interest, nor how I did pourloyne,
So I might get it with the Siluer hooke.
Who were the Thiefe, so I might buye the wares,
Nor who did thift, so I did get the shares.

C 3

And

I would, and yet I would not.

61.

And yet I would not: for then doe I doubt,
Some private Eyes, would closely prie into me:
And some odde Ladde or Landresse finde me out,
And for receiuing stolne goods would vndo me.
When with the losse of all my goods, scarce hope,
To be so happy, as to scape the Rope.

62.

No, I had rather trie a better Trade,
Whereby to make some honest kinde of gaine:
Whereby some better reckoning may be made,
Then buy Repentance with so great a paine.
Now sie vpon them, Brokers, Bawdes and Theeues,
Make poore men weare their Ierkins without
(fleeces.

63.

I would I were a close promoting Mate,
To picke a hole in each offenders Coar:
And make a shew of seruice to the State,
When I would purse vp many a priuy groat:
But in great Summes follow my Information,
Till I were well paid for a Reformation.

64.

And yet I would not: for then euery knaue
Would single me out, for a secret friend:
And teach me how to play the cunning slaue,
To bring my busines to a wretched ende.
While hellish Craft with Cloke of heresie,
Might hide a world of soule iniquitie,

No

I would, and yet I would not.

65.

No, I would rather learne my selfe t'amend
What is amisse, and so my friends aduise;
Then when I see an other man offend,
In secret, seeke his ruine to deuise.
And making shew to seeke the good of all,
Set vp my selfe, with many thousands fall.

66.

I would I were a Tapster, fill my pot (drinke:
Halfe vp with froth, and make my gaine of
And make no Care, how I my mony got,
So I might heare my Golde and siluer chinke.
Make more of Drunkardes then of better men,
By putting off bad licour now and then.

67.

And yet I would not: for then should I be,
At Call and Checke of euery lacke and Gill:
And many a Lobcocke would looke into me,
What drinke I drew, how I my pot did fill:
And some time trust so farre vpon the score,
I scarce should put my head out of the doore.

68.

No, I had rather runne an other Race,
Though for lesse profit, yet for more content:
That both with Cod and man, might be in Grace,
Wherein my time might be more happily spent.
And rather pay, my penny for my pot,
Then cosen twenty people for a groat.

C 3

I

I would, and yet I would not.

69.

I would I were as tall, and stout a man,
As euer drewe a sword out of a sheath :
That I might see, who durst come neere my Canne,
Or speake a word, where I but seeme to breath.
Or fortune durst, but crosse me with her wheeles,
Forfeare to see, her braines about her heeles.

70.

And yet I would not: for then where should I
Bestowe my selfe? but euery man would flie me:
I should be sure to haue no company, (nigh me,
Where none that loue themselues, that wil come
And fortune would be sure to fit me so,
That she wold some way seeke mine ouerthrow.

71.

I would I were a Trauellor, to passe (weather :
The Roughest Seas, and card'e for winde and
And might arriue, where neuer Creature was,
But Beasts, & Birds, that liue & feede together.
And tell at home what I abroad haue seene,
Where neuer man yet but my selfe had beene.

72.

And yet I would not: for I feare, that fewe
Would trust my stories, were they nere so true:
Words are but winde, and winde is but a Dewe,
Farre Trauellers may say that blacke is Blewe.
Although perhaps some simple soules may say,
Surely, this man hath trauailde a great way:

73. No

I would, and yet I would not.

73.

No, I will rather trye my Fortunes heere,
And to my best aduantage vse my wittes:
Then runne abroad, and buye *Repentance* deere,
Knowing how ofte, vnhappily *Fortune* hittes.
When weather-beaten Sailes, with winde, & raine,
Scarce make a Sauiing-*Voyage* home againe.

74.

I would I were a Player, and could Act
As many partes, as came vpon a Stage:
And in my braine, could make a full Compact,
Of all that passeth betwixt Youth and Age.
That I might haue five-shares in euery Play,
And let them laugh, that beare the *Bell*-away.

75.

And yet I would not: For then doe I feare,
If I should gall some *Goose-capps* with my speech:
That he would freat & tume, and chase, and sweare,
As if some Flea had bit him by the Breech.
And in some passion, or strange *Agonie*,
Disturbe both mee, and all the Companie.

76.

I would I were a *Poet*, and could write;
The passage of this Paltry world in rime:
And talke of Warres, and many a valiant fight,
And how the *Captaines* did to Honor clime.
Of Wise, and Faire, of Gracious, Vertuous, kinde,
And of the Bounty of a noble minde.

77. But

I would, and yet I would not.

77.

But speake but little of the life of *Loue*,
Because it is a thing so harde to finde:
And touch but little at the Turtle-Doue,
Seeing there are but fewe Byrdes of that kinde.
And Libell against leawde and wicked harts,
That on the earth, doe play the Diuells-parts.

78.

And yet I would not: for then would my braines,
Be with a world of toyes Intoxicate:
And I should fall vpon a thousand vaines,
Of this and that, and well I know not what.
When some would say, that saw my Frantick fittes,
Surely the *Part* is beside his wittes.

79.

I would I were an honest Countrey-Wench,
That only could make Curtsey, smoule, & blush,
And sit me downe vpon a good-Ale bench,
And answer wanton *Tomkin*, with a Yush.
And well, Go-too, and How-now? Pray-away,
And for a *Tanze*, goe to *Stoole-Ball*-play.

80

And yet I would not: For then doe I feare,
My Louers would be out of loue with mee:
If I would not belieue them when they sweare,
That I am shee, and I am onely shee,
Of all the Maydes, before the Church-house dore;
That hath their harts, and what can I haue more?

81. I

I would, and yet I would not.

101.

No, I had rather be an honest wife,
And leue my husband, and looke to my house;
And with my Neighbours leade a quiet life,
And keepe a Car, to drine away the Monie.
Hatch vp my Chickins, pen vp my clocke-Henne,
And haue nothing to doe with naughtie men.

102.

I would I were the gallant Courtizan,
That euer put a foure-Ear'd Asse to schoole:
That I might cleane put downe Maide Marian,
And neuer be without my dainty foole.
And make my mony baggs come tumbling to me,
And glad to see what seruice they can doe me.

103.

And yet I would not: for then doe I doubt,
Some Cuntstable, or Beadie of Bridewell:
By some olde Bawde, would it rely find me out,
When for his silence, I should pay full well.
Or Cart it to the place of youthes Correction,
Where chopping Chalke, would quite spoile my
(Complexion.

104.

No, I had rather be an honest Maide,
That neuer knewe any loues delight:
And of a man, almost to be a fraide,
Then see me to set my Maide's head so light.
As for a wicked choise, to chaunge my name,
To fit me onely, with a false shewe.

D

103. I

I would, and yet I would not.

105.

I would I were a Bruer, and could make
My water pay the charges of my Malt :
And for small Beere, the price of strong beere take,
And helpe a musty Barrell with bay salt.
Keepe leaking vessells, stoppe them vp with Clay,
The drinke may runne out, when the Earth's
(away.

106.

And yet I would not: for then I should thinke,
If I should take good mony for ill Beere :
My Customers would curse me for my drinke,
And say I solde both that was naught, and deere .
And one so driue an other daily fro me, (me.
That in the ende they would quite ouerthrow

107.

No, I had rather truly pay my penny
For my full pot of either Ale or Beere :
Then seeke the hurt or spoiling of a many ,
Or to vndoe the poore in a deere yeere.
Or make them say, whose trust I doe abuse,
Oh wicked Bruer, looke what drinke he brues.

108.

I would I were an excellent Diuine,
That had the Bible at my fingers ends :
The world might heare out of this mouth of mine,
How God did make his Enemies his friends.
I were so follow'de, as if none but I,
Could plainly speake of true Diuinity.

And

I would, and yet I would not.

109.

And yet I would not: for then ten to one,
I should be call'd but a Precizian:
Or Formalist, and might goe preach alone,
Vnto my holy brother Puritan.
And so be flouted for my zealous loue,
In taking paines for other mens behoue.

110.

No, I had rather reade, and vnderstand
The Rules of Grace, that haue the learned led:
To know the power of the Almighty hand,
And with what foode, the blessed flocke are fed.
Rather then with a thundring and long praier,
To leade into presumption, or dispaire.

111.

I would I were a man of warlike might,
And had the Title of a Generall:
To point the Captaines euery one their fight, (fall.
Where should the Vanguard, and the Rereward
Who should be leaders of the forlorne hope,
And who the Entrance to the Army ope.

112.

And yet I would not: for then I might see,
How discontent might cause a Mutinie:
Whereby the Army might in danger be,
To be surprized by the Enemy.
Or by the losse of men, for honors gaine,
To wound my Conscience with a bloody paine.

D 2

No,

I would, and yet I would not.

113.

No, I had rather praise the Course of peace,
And staidly how to helpe to holde the same:
And now some quarrells ill begun may cease,
And how to keepe accord in quiet frame.
That olde and young may liue contented so,
That to their graues, may all in quiet goe.

114.

I would I were the Miserablest wretch
That euer Crambde vp mony in his Chest:
That I might learne, but like a dogge to fetch (nest,
Lambes from the Folde, and Duckelings fro the
And when I tooke the paines to plucke and pull,
Know how to gaine, by Feathers, and by wooll.

115.

And yet I would not: least while I did liue,
I should scarce trust my selfe with that I haue:
I should not heare the word of Lent, nor giue,
But oaly study, how to get and saue.
And when I die, haue written on my doore, (poore,
The Dogge is Damnd, that preyde vpon the

116.

I would I were the strangest Prodigall,
That euer strew'de his mony in the street:
That I might make the Beggers merry all,
When they but sawe the shadowe of my feet.
And Charles might chafe, to see me so to throw
A way the wealth, that they did scrape for so.

And

I would, and yet I would not.

117.

And yet I would not: least when all were gone,
My stocke, my goods, my Leases, & my Lands:
It sure would breake my heart to looke vpon,
My whole estate to be in others hands.
And then to hide me in some secret place,
Or grieue to death, to thinke of my disgrace.

118.

I would I were so neate and Sprute a Noddy,
As all in print, might speake, and looke, & walke:
And so become for euery idle body,
A kinde of fable, or a Stable-talke.
And say to see me, tripping on the Toe,
The Fool's so prowde, he knows not how to goe.

119.

And yet I would not: least some Wood-cock-assé,
To equall me in my *Cumbrise*:
Might paint, and princke himselfe vp in a glasse,
And studie counterfeit *Genturie*.
And so perhaps put mee into some passion,
To see my fashion, growe so out of fashion.

120.

No, I will rather wisely looke about me,
And weare both what, & how might fit my state:
And haue a care within, what were without me,
I might not be an *Owle*, to wonder at.
But I might passe through all the *Pide-coat*-throng,
And bee no *Taber* for an idle-toong.

D-3

121. I

I would, and yet I would not.

121.

I would I were a Beastly-Epicure,
That car'd for nothing but to eate and drinke:
And talke of nought but *Natures-Nouriture*,
And filling vp my Flagons to the brinke,
Of lusty swallowes, and of pleasing taste,
And make no care how much good meat I waste.

122.

And yet I would not: least the world should say,
Looke, yonder goes a barrell full of Beere:
Who gulls in more good victualls in one day,
Then might suffice an honest man a yeere.
And ere he dye, it will (no doubt) be found,
The Beast did burst, & stunk aboue the ground.

123.

No, I had rather keepe a better Dyer,
And liue with Bread and water all my life:
Then in my *Gutes* to keepe so great a Ryot,
And in my Sromacke haue so sore a strife.
That I should puffe, and blowe, and swell, & sweat,
And be halfe-dead, ere I digest my meat.

124.

I would I were a man of all mens mindes,
My *Wit* were drawne into all kinde of passions:
And my Conceyts were all of sundry kindes,
My Cloathes made after all Countrey-fashions.
I knew the secret of all *Natures*-sence,
And so of *Earth*, and all her Excellence.

And

I would, and yet I would not.

125.

And yet I would not: for then sure should I,
Be all too gaz'd at wherefoere I goe:
And like the poore bare-feather'd *Asps*-Pye,
When euery Byrd did her owne-feather knowe,
Be followed with many a flowing-lacke,
Or Rauens feathers all pull'd from my backe.

126.

No, I had rather weare but home-spun-thread,
And haue my Cloathes close vpon my Breech:
And by my Labours-toyle to get my bread,
And vse no other but my Countrey-speech.
And rather haue a Foole thinke mee a foole,
Then craftie work-men know me by my Toole.

127.

I would I were the truest-hearted woman,
That euer spake with a most pleasing Tounge:
And neuer meane to giue offence to no man,
Nor neuer thrust into an idle throng.
But so haue care of all my Cariage,
It may be helpe vnto my Mariage.

128.

And yet I would not: for then euery Maide,
Within our towne, would stand & laugh at me:
And call me Foole, and say I were afraide,
To know what in an honest man might be.
For shee that will not looke ere shee did leape,
Might curse the *Trades-man*, though his Ware
(were cheape.
No,

I would, and yet I would not.

139.

No, I had rather be a reasonable,
True, Honest, Witty, merry-*Bony-Kate*,
That would not feare the Constable,
To see him looke in at our window-Grate.
As many *Wenches* will be now and then,
That haue bene medling with too-many men.

130.

I would I were the rarest *Politician*,
That euer plotted for preheminnce:
And of the Doggedst disposition,
That euer was in Natures residence,
And car'de not how the worlde to Ruine went,
So I might onely purchase my *Content*.

131.

And yet I would not: For then doe I feare, (me:
Some sudden-Flash frō Heau'n would fall vpon
And all the world reioyce to see and heare,
In helples griefe, how I am woe begon me.
When I of force should bid the world *Fare-well*,
And *Death* were sent to summon mee to *Hell*.

132.

No, I had rather keepe the plaine High-way,
That leades the soule to her Eternall rest:
Then by *Illusion*, seeke out a wry-way,
To hatche my Egges vp, in the *Dwells*-nest.
And with the *Worlde*, when I had made an ende
To finde in Heau'n an *Euerlasting-Friende*.

133.1

I would, and yet I would not.

133.

I would I were, and yet I would not too,
Because I know not that, I know not what:
And when I would doe, then I cannot doe,
When that would put out this, this put out that,
And such strange Fancies would in y^e spirit create,
That in the ende, I should grow mad indeede.

134.

Then let me see, if I at least can see,
What may be scene, that's worthie to be scene:
Wherein might be, and onely there might bee,
That alwayes hath bene, and hath onely bene.
In true *Concert*, in state of Comforts store,
Where I would be, and say, would not no more.

135.

Yea, that were such a thing indeed to finde,
As one might seeke vntill his Eyes were out:
With all the strength both of his heart and minde,
And trauell ouer all the Earth about.
And noting *Natures* workes, and worth in all,
Finde all as nothing, or to nothing fall.

136.

Yet there is something wherefoere it is,
And it is some-where, and no-where, but there:
Where all is well, and nothing is amisse,
But yonder, here and there and eue-where.
Where the bright-Eyes of *Blissfull-Soules* may see,
Where all the *Joyes of Hearts and Soulds* may bee.

F

137. But

I would, and yet I would not.

137.

But where is this fame, where? that wold be known,
And where is this fame knowledge to be found?
And where is such a seede of Science sown?
And where is such a blessed piece of ground?
And where is such a *Blessing* to be sought,
That for that worth, set at the world at nought?

138.

Where all the pride of *Boastie* is put downe,
Where *Natures* Reason, must subscribe to *Grace*:
And wit and will, may wander vp and downe,
And *Virtue* onely keepes a Glorious place,
Where shee alone vnto her Seruants shewes,
Where all the comfort of the spirit goes,

139

Yea, there alone the heart and soule may finde,
The sacred summe of their *Eternall-Sweets*:
Which gladdes the soule, the spirit, and the minde,
Where all the *Graces* do together meete.
And all together, they agree in one,
To sing in Glorie to their *GOD* alone.

140.

What? neither great, nor wise, nor Rich, nor faire?
What would I be then? might I as I would:
I would not be a *Moate* amidst the Ayre,
Nor yet a *Moule*, to digge within the ground.
Nor Byrd, nor Beest, that can but eate, and sleepe,
Nor like a Baby, can but laugh and weepe.

141. Weepe

I would, and yet I would not!

141.

Nor like a Bowby, without wit or sence,
Nor like a Babouné, for a Bearardes whipper:
Nor like a Lowse, in beggars Residence,
Nor like a Flea, that can but leape and skippe.
Nor like a worme, but to be troden on,
Nor like a Gue-Gaw, to be gaz'de vpon.

142.

Nor would I be a Byrd within a Cage,
Nor Dogge in Kennell, nor a Bore in Styre:
Nor Crab-Tree-Staffe, to leane vpon for Age,
Nor wicked Liue, to leade a Youth awrye.
Nor like a Flookie, that floates but with the Fludde,
Nor like an Ecce, that liues but in the muddé.

143.

Nor would I haue the Crane picke out mine Eyes,
Nor Pyes, nor Parats, teach me how to prate:
Nor fill my Pawnche too full of Wood-cock-pyes,
Nor haue *Midge-Howles* make me watch too late.
Nor let the *Cuckoo* learne me how to sing,
Nor with a *Buzzarde*, make too Lowe a wing.

144.

Nor would I bee a *Cute*, to hunt a *Moose*,
Nor yet a *Ferret*, to goe hunt a *Cony*:
Nor yet an *Ass*, to stand and looke a *Lowse*,
Nor yet a *Shreper-head*, to be sold for many.
Nor yet a *Hawke*, to seize vpon a *Ducke*,
Nor yet a *Nurse*, to giue a *Baby* sucke.

E 2

145. Nor

I would, and yet I would not.

145.

Nor would I write vpon the death of Dogges,
And say nere lyes a good olde-stinking Curre:
Cut Rusty face out of rotten Logges,
Nor of an Owles-skinne, make an Ape a Furre.
Nor teach a Byrde to whistle in a Cage,
Nor be a *Ministrell* at a Marriage.

146.

Nor teach a Cat, to hunt a Mowse drye-foote,
Nor a young Squyrell how to clime a Reede:
A Skarre-crow in a Gardein how to shoote,
Nor a blinde-Harper, how a Song to reade.
Nor how a Flea may scape the Fingers endes,
Nor how a Lowie may liue among her Friends.

147.

Nor would I be a Golden *Alchymist*,
To studie the *Phylosophers* faire Stone:
And feede a sight of Fooles, with *Had-I-wist*,
To weepe for Siluer, when theyr Golde is gone.
Poope Noddy, neuer was there such an other,
To make a Couzen of a simple Brother.

148.

Nor would I be a Foole when all is done,
To weare Pyed Coats, Turn-spit, & eat fat-meat:
Follow my Master, dandle his young Sonne,
And tell my Mistris, who the Foole did bear,
That she might chide her Wenches euery one,
For medling with her Foole, when she was gone.

149. Nor

I would, and yet I would not.

149.

Nor sing new-Ballads, nor make Countrey-games,
Nor set vp fights, were neuer scene before:
Nor walke among my cue of *Cursed-Dames*,
And bee a Pander to a *Paltry-Who*.
No, Pandaritime is so poore a Trade,
That none but Beggars, bargain for a Iade.

150.

No, I would not bee any one of these,
Nor any of this wretched worlds delight:
I would not so my spirits comforts leese,
To haue mine Eyes bewicht frō heauenly light.
No, I would haue an other World then this,
Where I would seeke for my *Eternall-Blisse*.

151.

And till I come vnto that Glorious place,
Where all *Contents* doe ouercome the heart:
And *Love* doth liue in *Euerlasting-Grace*,
While greatest *Ioy* doth feele no smallest smart.
But *GOD* is all in all, to his beloued, (ued.
The *Sweet of soules*, that sweetest soules haue pro-

152.

To tell you truly, what I wish to bee,
And neuer would be other, if I could:
But in the comfort of the Heau'ns Decree,
In soule and bodie, that I euer should.
Thouga in the world, not to the world to liue,
But to my *GOD*, my seruice wholly giue.

E 3

153. This

I would, and yet I would not.

152.

This would I be, and would none other be,
But a Religious seruant of my God:
And knowe there is none other God but he,
And willingly to suffer mercies Rod.
Ioy in his Grace, and liue but in his Loue,
And seeke my blisse but in the heauen aboue.

154.

And I would frame a kinde of faithfull praier,
For all estates, within the state of Grace:
That carefull loue might neuer know despaire,
No seruile feare might faithfull loue deface.
And this would I both day and night deuise,
To make my humble spirits Exercise.

155.

And I would arede the rules of sacred Life,
Perswade the troubled soule to patience:
The husband, Care, and Comfort to the wife,
To Childe and seruant, due obedience.
Faith to the friend, and to the Neighbour peace,
That loue might liue, and quarrels all may cease.

156.

Pray for the health of all that are deceased,
Confession vnto all that are Conuicted:
And patience vnto all, that are displeased,
And comfort vnto all, that are afflicted.
And mercy vnto all, that haue offended,
And Grace to all, that all may be amended.

Pray

I would, and yet I would not.

157.

Pray for the King, the Queene, & Countries health
Their Royall issue, and their Peeres of Estate:
The Counsaile, Cleargy, and the Common-wealth,
That no misfortune may their blisse abate.
But that, th Almighty so his Church will cherish,
That not a member of his Loue may perish.

158.

Wish King, to haue King *Dauids* heart,
And euery Queene, the Queene of *Shelams* wit:
And euery Councell, *Salomons* best part,
Of vnderstanding, for a kingdome fit.
And euery Lady, faire *Rebeccas* face,
And euery Virgin, the wise Virgins Grace.

159.

And euery Souldiour, *Iosuahs* true spirit,
And euery Scholler, *Arons* eloquence:
And euery Miser, wicked *Dimes* merits,
And euery poore man, *Iobs* true patience.
And euery Lawyer, *Maries* heau'nly minde,
And euery Merchant of *Zachews* kinde.

160.

Doe not with *Esaus*, hunt for venison,
And sell thy birthright for a messle of portage:
Lest *Jacob* steale away thy benison,
When *Maach* falls vpon the yeeres of dotage.
But be a *Ioseph* in the time of neede,
To good olde *Jacob*, and his blessed seede.

Be

I would, and yet I would not.

161.

Be *Abraham* in obedient sacrifice,
And follow *Lot* in his loues holines:
Like *Salomon*, be in thy Iudgement, wise,
And *Ionathan* in friendships faithfulness
Like *Henoah* make thy Joy of heauenly loue,
And with *Elish* liue in Heau'n above.

162.

And diet not with *Holofernes* drinke,
But follow *Judith*, in her ioyfull strength:
Let *Dalila*, not make stout *Sampson* winke;
Lest the Philistines fall on thee at length.
Nor *Salomon* be led with *Pharaohs* Childe,
Lest by the flesh, the spirit be beguilde.

163.

Be both a Priest, a Prophet, and a King,
A Priest, to make thy selfe a Sacrifice:
A Prophet, to declare the way to bring
The blessed Spirit, vnto Paradise.
A King to rule thy selfe, with such direction,
Thy Soule may keepe thy body in subiection.

164.

Know what, and how, & where, & when to speake,
Be fearefull, how thou dost thy God offend:
A vertuous vow, take heed thou dost not breake,
And mercies pleasure willingly attend.
Holde backe thy hand from all vnlawfull Action,
And weane thy Spirit, from vngodly Faction.

Flatter

I would, and yet I would not.

165.

Flatter not folly, with an idle faith,
Nor let earth stand vpon her owne desert :
But shew what wisdom in the Scripture faith,
The fruitfull hand, doth shew the faithfull hart.
Beleeue the word, and thereto bend thy will,
And teach obedience for a blessed skill.

166.

Chide sinners, as the father doth his childe,
And keepe them in the Awe of louing feare :
Make sinne most hatefull, but in words be milde:
That humble patience may the better heare:
And wounded conscience may receiue reliefe,
Whē true repentance pleades the sinners grieffe.

167.

Yet flatter not the foule delight of sinne,
But make it loathsome in the Eie of Loue:
And seeke the hart with holy thoughts to winne,
Vnto the best way, to the soules behoue.
So teach, so liue, that both in word and deede,
The world may Ioy thy heau'nly rules to reade.

168.

Heale the infect of sinne, with oile of Grace,
And wash the Soule, with true Cōtritious teares:
And when Confession shewes her heauy Case,
Deliuier faith from all Infernall feares.
That when high Iustice threatens sinne with death,
Mercy againe may giue Repentance breath.

F

Sit

I would, and yet I would not.

169.

Sit not with Sathan, on the Horse of pride:
But see sweet Iesus sitting on an Asse:
Better on foote, then slowly to ride,
As with the Diuell into hell to passe.
There is no meane, but either heau'n or hell,
For on this Earth must no man euer dwell.

170.

Time hath a course, which nature cannot stay,
For youth must die, or come to doting Age:
What is our life on Earth? but as a play,
Where many a part doth come vpon the Stage.
Rich, poore, wile, fond, faire, fowle, & great & smal,
And olde, and young, death makes an ende of al.

171.

Where he that makes his life a Comedy,
To laugh and sing, and talke away the time:
May finde it in the ende a Tragedy, (chime.
When mournesfull Bells doe make no merry
When sad despaire shall feare Infernall euill,
While Sinne and death, are Agents for the diuel.

172.

But doe not Raue, nor Raile, nor stamps, nor stare,
As if thy care would goe to cusses with sinne:
But shew how mercy doth Repentance spare,
While working faith, doth heau'nly fauour
And loues obedience to the law doth proue, (winne.
The chosen Soule, that God doth chiefly loue.

Thus

I would, and yet I would not

169.

Thus would I spend in seruice of my God,
The lingring howres of these few daies of mine,
To shew how sinne and death are ouertrod,
But by the vertue of the power diuine. (dust,
Our thoughts but vaine, our substance slime and
And onely Christ, for our Eternall trust.

170.

This would I be, and say, would not, no more,
But onely not, be otherwise then this:
All in effect, but as I said before,
The life in that lifes kingdomes loue of his.
My glorious God, whose grace all comfort giues,
Then be on Earth, the greatest man that liues.

FINIS.

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A MERRIE
DIALOGVE BE-
TUVIXT THE TAKER
and Mistaker.



Imprinted at London for James Shaw, and
are to be sold at his shop neare
Lud-gate. 1603.





TO MY VERIE
LOVING, AND APPRO-
VED GOOD FRIEND, THE
LOVER OF ALL VERTVES AND
labourer in good studies, Signor *Iohn Florio*, per-
fect Reader of the Italian language, Nicholas Breton
wisheth, worthy aduancement of many good de-

*serts, encrease of comforts, and eter-
nall happinesse.*

VNthankfulnesse is too great
an vnkindnesse to come
neare the nature of any
good disposition; and ther-
fore, to auoide the desert
of so ill a Touch, to mani-
fest my good will in more desire then abili-
ty, I haue giuen you a token of my loue, in a
litle fruit of my labour: wherein if I be not
mistaken in my conceipt, you shall find
somewhat worth the taking view of. The
Dialogue is not tedious, nor the matter so
serious, but it may passe the musters of a
merry humor: wherein the Taker shall find

The Epistle.

how he may be mistaken, and the Mistaker,
how he may be taken. My hope is you will
take all in good part, and smile at them that
are so mistaken in their wits, that they know
not well, what to take well. But lest I take too
long a time, in troubling you with a longer
preface, then either the matter requireth, or
your patience will admit with many thanks
for your many vnderferued kind passages (of
which, I haue taken such remembrance, as I
hope shal one day be better considered) lea-
uing my booke to your kind patro-
nage, and my loue to your like
employment; I rest al-
wayes

Your affectionate poore friend,

Nicholas Breton.

To

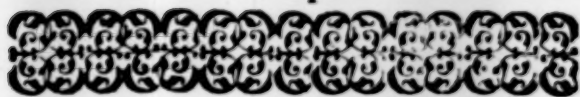


To the Reader.

IF I be not mistaken, there are many Takers & Mistakers in this world, who take themselves to be wise with a little wit, & rich with a little wealth. Some are taken for religious, that with their hipocrisie coufin a number of simple people: other are taken for good men, that haue a little more wealth then honestie: and some are taken for fooles, that haue more conscience then cunning: but happie are they, who take the right course to their soules comfort. In this discourse following, you shall see diuerse pretie passages betwixt the Taker and the Mistaker, perhaps as pleasing for the mirth, as profitable for the matter. Now how euery one will take it, I know not. The best mindes I know will take nothing ill, that is meant well; and for the worst, they know not how to take any thing well, how good so ere it be: and therefore intreating euery man to take it as he list, lest I should be beholding to I know not whom for I know not what, I leaue to the Printer to take his price, and you to take your pleasure; and so rest

Your friend, if I be not mistaken,

NICHOLAS BRETON.



*A merrie Dialogue betwixt
two Trauellers.*

Dorinda, and Lorenzo.

LORENZO well met, how doeſt thou this faire morning? *Lor.* A thouſand good morrowes to mine honeſt *Dorinda*: but how goes the world man? no newes ſtirring worth the hearing? *Dor.* More then are true, or worth the telling: and therefore I had as leeue hold my peace, as haue no thanks for my tatling: but I pray thee tell me, where haſt thou bene this many a day? I heard that thou haſt bene ouer the water, I know not how farre. *Lor.* Indeed the ſea is a pretie brooke to wade thorough, and a yeares trauell will treade a pretie peece of ground: but to tell you where I haue bene, I cannot, for my way was long, and my memorie is ſhort: but had I time to tell thee that which I could, (at leaſt if my memorie would ſerue me) I ſhould make thee like the better of home, and the worſe of trauell while thou liueſt. *Dor.* And why, I pray thee? *Lor.* It is not ſo ſoone answered, but rather let me ſay, why not? For much daunger, and more feare, litle ſafetie and leſſe gaine, made me wiſh either to haue knowne leſſe, or ſomewhat more worth

the knowing. *Lor.* I pray thee why? were thine eyes not matches, or thy wits out of order? *Dor.* Truly whether the fault be in my wits, or mine eyes, I know not: but I am sure I was so ouertaken in mistaking of euery match that I met withall, that I had as lecue almost be an Ignorant, as deceiue my selfe with imagination. *Lor.* True, for as good to lose thoughts, as to lose by them: but whence or whereupon grew this griefe of yours? *Dor.* I tell you by mistaking. *Lor.* But how I pray you? *Dor.* Why, the first thing that I was mistaken in, was my selfe: in whome I was the most mistaken of any thing in the world. For, with onely a litle obseruation, I was perswaded, that there was no matter of woorth, but I had it by heart; and for trifles, I wold not be troubled with them: but, whē that reason came to ripping vp of the secrets of willdomes intelligence, I saw my wit so wilfull, that I was mistaken in all matters that I met with. *Lor.* What, men, women and children? *Dor.* Yea, onely in them: for touching other creatures, I made no great care of my concept of them. But now to tell thee, in my trauels how I was mistaken: to runne ouer all my courses, it were too tedious, let suffice as much as may make thee mery to heare, and wise to remember. First, when I left my countrie and came a boord the Buon-à-venture, we had no sooner weighed anker, hoisted sailes, and put to sea, but with a fresh gale of wind, and faire weather, we were so merie aboute hatches, that me thought there was none so merie aliue as the saylers. But we had not thus passed fise leagues, till the skie was ouercast, the wind came about and grew high, the aire thicke and foggie, and the drizling raine came so beating

A merrie Dialogue.

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beating in our faces, that we were glad to get vnder hatches: where we were scarcely set in our Cabines, but the tempest grew so great, the winds so rough, and the waues so high, that we were glad with throwing out almost all the goods into the sea, to saue our liues in the bare vessell. Now when I came on shore, well moiled and poore, hauing lost all that I had aboard, more then a litle mony in my purse, which was so litle, as that I will say litle of it: I beganne to thinke with my selfe how I was mistaken, to thinke, that one faire day, and a litle faire weather, could make me think, that the saylers life (which euery minute is subiect to daunger of one harme or other, and betwixt a bord and the water, hath a walke, but in a short and vnsteadie roome) should be compared to the land life, where there is pleasure in the faire weather, and shelter against the foule, and no feare of wind nor water, nor many other daungers which I will omit to speake of. And in steade of a whirl poole in the water, a walke large enough to walke man and horse too, till they were both wearie. Nowe here was my first mistaking. *Lor.* It may be, if the weather had held faire, and that you had met with a good prize, you would not haue thought your selfe mistaken in the merie life of the mariner. *Dor.* Indeed sometime the ioy of taking, helps the miserie of mistaking. *Lor.* Yea, but when the theefe that hath taken a purse, if he be ouertaken in the high way, and so take the gallowes for his Inne, that ioyfull taking in the beginning brings a sorrowfull mistaking in the end. *Dor.* Well, as for that part, it is none of my play, and therefore I will leaue it to them that loue it.

B

Now to tell thee of my second mistaking. When I had bene a litle on shore, had weathered my selfe, dried my clothes, filled my belly, and emptied my purse, I now beganne to thinke how my wits should worke for my welfare: and first, intending to seeke intertainment of some Noble person, that would honourably looke into the vertues, valour, and good qualities of a good mind, I began to put on a resolution to aduenture any fortune, and indure any discomfort, that might be a hinderance to my happines. And with this resolution traueilling till I was wearie, almost penileffe, and exceedingly hungrie, I came to the view of a goodly, faire, & gorgeously built house, which stood as it were a mile from a citie neare adioyning. Now in hope there to find some such person, as I before spake of, I began to rowze vp my selfe, as one that had an assured hope, at least of some good victuall, I meane of a good dinner scot-free, howsoeuer otherwise fortune would be my friend. When, ere I would approach too neare the house, lest I should be scene in any vnfit manner, I combed my beard, gartered vp my stockings, trussed euery point, buttoned euery button, and made my selfe readie in the best manner I could, to appeare before the presence of such as I should meete withall in this gallant mansion. But when I came neare vnto the house, and finding the doore shut, I did imagine (being about the mid time of the day) that the seruants were all at dinner, and the lord of the house either laid downe to sleepe, or gone into his closet, to talke vpon some accounts with his ladie: but hearing no sound of any noyse, nor voice within of either man or dogge, I feared some ill fortune,

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tune, that there was some great sicknesse, or daunger of death that might dampe the spirits, and so cause the sorrow of the whole house: but staying awhile, and neither hearing any voice within, nor any poore creature without at the gate, that might hope of almes from the hall, I feared the charitie within was so litle, that my comfort without would be according: but after that I had stood awhile, loth to lose time, I knocked at the doore; where I knocked long, before I had any answer, and in the end was saluted at a window farre within by an old fellow, who it should seeme, to saue a groat had slept out his dinner; whose speech (with a wide mouth gaped out) was this: What lacke you? My friend (quoth I) I pray you let me speake with you. No (quoth he) I cannot come downe, I am busie, my maister is not at home, and here is no bodie in the house but I and my wife, and she is not well: but say your errand and I will heare you. My errand thought I, was there euer such a kennell for such a curre? doth he take me for some sorie fellow, or hath he no better kind of greeting for strangers? And thus while I stood musing and fretting at my fortune and this bad fellow, he shut the window: and I with a sigh, to see how I was mistaken in this faire house, turning me from it, I met with a foole in a pyed coate, who looking vpon me after he had ouerlaughed himselfe, told me: Sir, you are mistaken, this is a banquetting house, where the gazers are onely fed with conceits, for there is not a chimney that smokes, nor a doore open, it is called Mock-begger, ha, ha, ha. Now when the foole went thus laughing away, and left me more fooles to tarie there. Before I stirred my foote,

out of my pocket I tooke my tablebooke, in which I writ downe my second mistaking. *Lor.* Indeed this is too common a mistaking in many countries, but it may be you might haue taken it in such a time, as might haue giuen you cause to haue spoken better of it: but indeed faire houses are for rich men, and cottages for the poore: and therefore being in that predicament, it is no maruell you had no better entertainment. But I pray you proceed with your trauell.

Dor. I will tell you, melancholy walking a litle from this Mocke-begger, I began to frame my selfe to the humour of a cunning begger: when meeting with a graue old man (who by his veluet coate, his golden chaine, and his rich furred gowne should seeme to be at the least some rich Burgor, if not some Burga-maister of some city) this well apparelled picture with a kind of life that gaue the body leaue to cary the head vpon a square paire of shouldiers, I in hope to find more comfortable then the faire house maister Mocke-begger, I saluted with a great reuerence, & requited with a proud nod, I yet aduentured to bord with a few words. When hoping to haue found him a man of no lesse vnderstanding spirit, to iudge of the estate and conditions of men, then bounty, in the reliefe of the vnfortunatly distressed, I fell aboard with him with these words. Sir, I thinke you haue heard of the hard fortune of the Buon-aventure, who put into your harbor this other night, hardly sauing her life, with losse of all her goods, and some of her peoole. My selfe, with much ado well weather-beaten as you may see, with some few that lie sicke in the hauch, got to shore, and am
now

now traueilling towards your city here before me. Loth I am to enter into any base course for my comfort: but, if I might be beholding to your good fauour, in this time of my distresse, giuing me your name withall, I doubt not if I liue; but either by my selfe, or my better friends, to find a time, either to requite or deserue it. He, as one whose heart was so shut vp in his purse, that he vnderstood nothing but ware and money, after a harsh humme, or two, gaue me this answer: Was there nothing saued of her goods I pray you? what was her fraught? Sir, quoth I, it was most silkes and spices, but some pearle, and money, more then would haue bene willingly lost. Good commodities, quoth he; by my fay, a shrewd mischance: I am sory for ye, I would I could do ye good, but I am now in hast going about a litle businesse, and therefore I cannot stand to talke with you, God be with you; the towne is hard before you, you will be there anon: But, if you haue any iewels or pearle that you haue saued, I will giue you mony for it, if I like it. Truly Sir, quoth I, iewels I haue not many, onely two rings on my fingers, and this bracelet of pearle I haue saued: my bracelet cost me a hundred crownes, if it please you to haue it of the price it cost, though against my will, I will part with it. With that vpon his bottel red nose he claps on a paire of spectacles, and looking on my pearle, found fault with the roundnesse, and the clearenesse, and I know not what else, till at the last, thinking to make a gaine of my misery, he offered me ten crownes: saying, that he had no need of it; but rather then be disfurnished of mony (being a stranger) he would aduenture

so much on it : whereat, I swallowing a sigh, and concealing my discontent, desired him to pardon me, I hoped to find some of my countymen in the city, that I would be as bold, as I might withall. Thus, with an idle word or two, did I leaue this good old gentleman, in whom how much I was, and many moe, no doubt, haue bene mistaken, I referre to the iudgement of those that can spell him without booke, & may desire neuer to come neare him within booke. This was my third mistaking : to take the shadow of a man, and the substance of a money-bagge, without charity, or humanitie, by the hypocriticall figure of grauitie, to be a creature of vnderstanding, a man of honour, and a blessed relieuer of the miserable. *Lor.* Alas how many thousands are so mistaken : Why, the blessed Saints holinesse, the Martyrs faithfulnessse, the Virgines purenesse, and the prayers of the elect, I haue heard, and read of : but I neuer heard of any rich apparell, or chaines spoken of among them; for God blesse vs from it, some say the diuell hath a chaine wherein he leades a number into hell; but I hope it is not gold. I know not that, but I thinke not, for murderers hang in iron chaines, and therfore he wil not be at cost with them, all alike: but how he doth with the couetous, the lecherous, and the ambitious, that knoweth God and not I. But shall I tell you further of my mistakings. *Lor.* Yes, for Gods sake. *Dor.* Then let me tell you. *Lor.* I had scarcely got within the gates of the city, but that it was my hap to meete with a countrey man of mine owne, and somewhit of alliance vnto me. This man at first seeming to be glad to haue met me in that city,

promising

promising me to bring me acquainted with some other of my country men, and that he would be ready to do me all the pleasure he could : this did not a litle content me, hoping that for countrey, and kindreds sake, I should find no litle friendship. But after that he had made me know three or foure of my country men, and brought me to an Inne, where for my monny I might lodge, neither inuiting me to dinner or supper, onely was content to take a cup of wine of me, and to tell me that he hoped to drinke with me before my going out of towne : thus was I mistaken both in kin and countrey, to hope of any comfort. But the next morning comming to a tailors house (which was likewise a countrey man of mine) I had no sooner talked with the good man, about the pawning of my bracelet, and taking vp of some stuffe for my apparell, but his wife in an inner roome, almost as quicke of eare as of tongue, with a wide gaping mouth came to vs with this greeting : Go too, goodman-goose, meddle with no pawning nor taking vp, you haue payed inough for playing the Foole, and yet will be an Ass still : I pray you wife quoth he, be quiet : and then to me, Truly gentleman, I would be glad to do you any pleasure, but I haue such a wife that I dare do nothing without her consent : if you bring your stuffe I will do it you, as well and as good cheape as any man. Now, I that tooke him to haue bene the maister of the house, was much mistaken, for the woman ware the breeches, and he was to worke for the house : when pitying the poore mans case, and much commending his patience, for to thinke how I was mistaken, I tooke another course

for my contentment. I was not long in towne before I had learned how to turne pearle into gold, and gold into siluer, and so to furnith my selfe of such necessities, as I found most fitting for my vse: when there passed not many dayes before I fell vpon another fortune, where I was as I was still in euery thing mistaken. *Lor.* I pray you tell it, we haue time inough, and I long to heare it. *For.* I will tell you.

It was my hap after that I had done my deuotion in the Church, and holy places, passing through the streetes, beholding as well the faire houses, as sweete creatures at their doores and windowes; to cast mine eye vpon a very artificiall faire, sharpe witted, wanton eyed, and faire handed, small footed, straight bodied, and, as I after found, smooth tounge gentlewoman: I say gentle, for she was so gentle, that she was as tame, as a litle filly, that had bene brought vp al by hand. This fine mistresse, I had some hope to do some good vpon, when setting a good face on the matter, after a courteous salutation I fell to kissing of her hand: which she endured with such a pleasing smile, as gaue me cause to proceed further in my purpose. I had not so soone beganne to go about her, but she had me at euery turne, and in the midst of my talk wold be fidling with a ring, in which was a painted diamond, that I ware on my finger, which she wold commend with wishing her hand worthie such a fauour. Now I that hoped to haue found so gallant a wench, as francke handed, as free hearted, and as liberall for loue, as ready for entertainment, found that artificiall beauty, was but a shadow, or rather couer of couetousnesse, or an instrument,

strument of wit, to draw on folly, into the ruine of prodigality: so that, here I found my selfe so mistaken, that it made me afraid a long while after, to be busie with the female kind. *Lor.* In truth this was a pretty mistaking: but if she had bene for you, and would haue mistaken you for her husband, by whom you might craftily haue bene taken, and so bene carried to Bride-well, or payed for your pardon; what a taking would you then haue bin in? *Dor.* I know not, but tis better, as it was: for as I found it, so I left it. I only spent a few faire words, but not a peny mony, for I would not pay for my repentance: but so leauing her, as I found her, with a *Bazo los manus*, went about my other businesse: which I had not long followed, but I fell vpon another mistaking. *Lor.* What may that be, if you can remember? *Dor.* I will tell you.

It was my hap to heare of a gallant Captaine that was to do a peece of seruice vpon a citie of the Turks, vnder whom who could get entertainment, might quickly purchase both honor and wealth. Now, my youth being trained vp in armes, and my fortune falling vpon such a point, it was not long before I made and got meanes of entertainment at the hands of this gallant souldier, of whom I hoped to receiue the due of my desert: but after that he had in many desperate peeces of seruice employed me, and saw in me that true valour, that made him in the enuie of my good deserts, feare some neare pressing towards his pride, in stead of aduancing my fortune, or rewarding my seruice, he still put me vpon such continuall exploits, as threatned euerie houre narrow escape of my life. But in the end seeing his miserie, to

make a gaine of those that did him honor, handfasted to the well deseruing, and rather plotting the death, then aduancing the fortunes of the valiant, got meanes for my discharge from him; and sory to think how I was mistaken in him, as I tell you, I left him: when I had not gone farre, but I light vpon another mistaking. *Lor.* And how I pray thee? if it be not troublesome to thee to recite it, I pray thee let me heare it. *Dor.* You shall.

The mistaking of a Diuine.

It was my hap in a litle field neare vnto a Church in a countrey towne, to ouertake a litle old man in a gowne, a wide kassock, a night-cap, and a corner-cap, by his habite seeming to be a Diuine; of whom I was in hope to find that sacred fruit of charity, that might be some comfort in my returne: whom beginning to salute with a few Latine words: My friend, quoth he, do not deceiue your selfe, I vnderstand not your Greeke. We here, that dwell farre from the citie, and are not troubled with fine eares to our reading, care for no more but to discharge our duties in our places, I meane of a Vicar, for I am no better: the Parson is a man of greater place, and of faire possessions, who dwelleth a great way hence, and therefore seldome comes into this countrey. I vse twise a yeare to bring him his rent, and perhaps a couple of Capons against Christmusse, for my Land-lady, and that is as much as they look for. And for my parishioners, they are a kind of people, that loue a pot of Ale better then a Pulpit, and a corne-ricke better then a Church-

Church-doore : who comming to diuine seruice, more for fashion then deuotion, are contented after a litle capping and kneeling, coughing and spetting, to helpe me to sing out a Psalme, and sleepe at the second Lesson, or awake to stand vp at the Gospeli, and say Amen at The peace of God; and stay till the Banes of matrimonie be asked, or till the Clarke haue cryed a pyed stray bullocke, a blacke sheepe or a gray mare: and then, for that some dwell farre off, be glad to be gotten home to dinner. Now we that haue no more liuing then will hardly serue to keepe a poore house, are not in case, God helpe vs, to do any thing for our poore brethren; and therefore my good friend trouble vs not with other speech then we vnderstand, lest if you come afore the Constable, he take you for some coniurer, and so bring your selfe to some trouble, which I would be sorie to see: for truly you seeme a handsom man; God hath done his part in you: God be with you. Oh Lord (thought I) is this man possible to be a Church-man, and knoweth so litle what belongeth to the Church? Well, this was no litle mistaking: but going a litle further, leauing this poore Sir Ienkin to his mother tongue, I ouertooke a plaine fellowe to my seeming, clad in a home-spun ierkin of russet wooll, a paire of close breeches of the same, a falling band somewhat courser then fine Cambricke, a payre of wollen stockings, and a halfe boote, like a good high shooe. Now, this plaine outside, I guessed to be lined with no excellent stuffe in the inside: and therefore somewhat more boldly then rudely saluted him in this manner: Good fellow, well ouertaken. You are welcome, quoth he: but

to clappe a man on the shoulder before you knowe him, is a point quite out of the rule of all good manners, at least that euer I learned. Alas, quoth I, goodman clowne, can your nose abide no least: Yes Sir, quoth he, with my friends; but mine eares haue no pleasure in a foole. This touching me too neare the quicke, replied againe: Oh sir, quoth I, then if your friends be fooles, you will shake hands with thē; but a straunger will put you out of patience. He little moued herewith, (as it seemed) made me this answer: My friend, I pray you keepe your way, I would be loth to hinder your walke: but if your passion be no greater then my impatience, we shall not fall out for a trifle. But Sir (quoth I) how might I fall in either with your selfe, or such another, for a matter of good earnest? It seemes you are a man of sence, and had I not giuen you cause of displeasure which I am sorie for, I wold haue acquainted you with somewhat, that by your good means, I might perhaps be the better for. Truly sir, quoth he, my estate is not such as can make me bountifull to the best deseruing; but so farre as discretion will giue me leaue, I would be glad to pleasure a stranger. My house is not far hence, but on the further side of this field; whither (if it may be no great hinderance to your trauell) I wil intreat your patience to a pore pittance, and if in either my aduise, or better meanes I may stead your desire, you shall find that you do not looke for; nothing that you shall pay for; and somewhat that perhaps you shall thanke me for: and therefore, I pray you beare me companie for this night; to morrow you shall take your journey at your pleasure. This kind offer (hauing no reason
to

to refuse) I tooke most thankfully : and by the way after a few discourfes of my fortunes, I acquainted him with the refolution of my intent ; which was, either to ferue in the warres , or in Court , or to professe fome trade , or to followe my studie . To which , I asked his aduice for my good , in all and euery one of them : to which , as I propounded the question, he made me this aunfwer . **And first**, quoth he, my friend, I am forie, by these your discourfes, to haue occasion to call to mind the folly of my youth, which taught me nothing in mine age, but the repentance of lost time: but for that I haue tried fortune to the vttermost of her malice , and in the end am come to that you see , I would be glad to tell you a merrie tale, how I was mistaken in many courses, before I hit on the right compasse: in which, if you can gather any thing for your good ; I shall thinke it the best gaine that I haue made of it. Now finding this vnlooked for and vnderferued kindnesse at his handes , and nothing more fitting the humour of my fortune at that time, I intricated him most heartily, to make me in this first to be beholding to him. Whereupon, with a very little preamble he fell into this plaine trot: I will tel you, quoth he, when I was yong as you are, and had as litle to care for as you haue, being broght vp at home with ease and plentie, and wearie of welfare , would faine haue I know not what, when hauing the world more at will, then wit to gouerne my affections, and a desire to see more then I could well carie away, thinking my mothers best creame but bare milke ; and others thinnest milke, as good creame as might make butter ; taking leaue of no friend , and flattering my thoughts

with fortune, I would to sea forsooth, with a sight of such spirits, as (but that they looked like men) would haue made poore people affraid of them: yet these were the men with whom (in more hast then good speed) I must go lose abroad what I had gotten at home. When, hoping to haue light on some good prize, I was taken prisoner with the enemy: of whom being stript of that I had, with a few old ragges on my backe, among a few of my fellow failers that were set on shore in a poore taking, I found how I began to be mistaken; to leaue the land for the sea, and a safe home for a straunge harbour. But now on shore with my good fellowes in fortune, euery man shifting for himselfe, and I trying so many waies to the wood, that I lost my selfe in the plaine, wearie of doing nothing, began to look about me for my better profit: but such were my crosses in all my courses, that I could neuer thriue till I got home againe. For to make an abridgement of a long tale, I will tel you: In courting I found more cost then comfort; in warre, more danger then ease; in learning, more studie then profit; in trafficke, more gaine then conscience; in seruice, more paine then honour; in mariage, more care then quiet; and in loue, more pleasure then vertue: so that in all my courses being so mistaken, that I found a crosse to my comfort in euery of them, I fairely left the Courtier to his curtesies, the souldier to his marches, the scholar to his studies, the merchaunt to his trafficke, the married man to his purgatorie, and the louer to his vanity: and home returned to my poore cottage that my parents left me; and, as my wife tels me, my sonnes shall possesse after me. Here I liue in a meane course, content

tent, and glad of Gods blessings, neuer in daunger to be mistaken, because I trust only to experience: while doing honour to God, and following my businesse, with the sweate of my browes, I gaine the foode of my senses, with my necessarie appurtenances. O my friend, beleue me, he that is contented is rich, while he that is rich is not contented: a litle sufficeth nature, and excessse is but hurtfull; beautie, but the inchaunter of wit; ambition, but the ouerthrow of vertue; couetousnesse, the corrupter of conscience; authoritie, the charge of care; pride, the hate of nature; enuie, the nurse of malice, and wrath, the inuenter of murther; sloth, the losse of time; drunkennesse, the shame of nature; gluttonie, the ground of sicknesse; and lecherie, the fire of sinne. These notes when I had taken by the light of Gods grace, and obseruation of times, leauing all extremities, I tooke this meane course: where though home be homely, yet liuing quietly and contentedly, I find it true, That he who serueth God hartily, liueth happily, and dieth ioyfully. Now my good friend, if I might aduise you for your good, I would wish you to take a stayed course, and lay away all running humours: looke home, loue home, liue at home, a small assurance is better then a great hope; and a litle possession, then a great possibilitie: and when a man hath of his owne, he neede not borrow of his neighbours. Trauell may be pleasing, and seruice hopefull, trafficke gainefull, and wealth powerfull: but a conuenient house, an honest patrimonie, a kind wife, obedient children, faithfull seruants, and louing neighbors, make such a commonwealth of contentment in the true conceipt of a carefull vnderstanding; that a king

of a mole-hill, were better then a lord of a great hutch. Oh, to see in a faire morning, or a Sunnie euening, the lambes and rabbits runne at bace, the birds billing, the fishes playing, and the flowers budding, who would not leaue the drinking in an ale-house, the wrangling in a dicing house, the lying in a market, and the cheating in a faire; and thinke that the brightnesse of a faire day, doth put downe all the beauties of the world. But I doubt I grow tedious, and therefore being so neare home, I will intreat your patience till we haue supped, and only assure you of a good welcom, to supply the want of better cheare. With this breaking off his talke, he tooke me by the hand and led me into his house, the doore open, as vnfearefull of theeues, or vnprouided for strangers: where we were at the entry saluted with a modest smile of a kind wife, humble courtesies of most sweet children, due reuerence of comely seruants, and a table furnished for both the host & a good guest. Here (though no inne) yet I tooke vp my lodging; where with the entertainment of much kindnesse, hauing fed both bodie and mind with sufficient comforts, with due thanks for all curtesies, I tooke leaue of the whole familie, of whom in generall I receiued kindnesse. In the morning not too early, receiuing an extraordinarie golden fauour, for a friendly farewell, calling to mind his discourfes of mistaking, and noting mine owne crosses in my courses: I tooke his counsell for my comfort, and with as much speed as I could, leauing my trauell turned euen faire home again. And thus much for this time of my trauell. Now what say you of yours? for I am sure you haue not liued alwaies at home. *Lor.* Oh fine tale,
you

you were the best mistaken in that man of all other: for, where you hoped well of other, you found the contrarie; but of him you thought but litle, and found much good. But it is no rare thing: for a man may looke like an owle, that hath more wit then ten asses; and a woman may bride it like a maide, that hath bene the mother of many children. A king in a play may be a begger from the stage, & a clowted shoo may haue a pate beyond all the parish. Oh, take heed of a wolfe in a lambes skinne, and talke not of hawking, till you haue bene a Faulconer: for if a man haue not his fiue wits, he may be a foole in foure of them. But, lest you take my words for a lecture, which may be more tedious then pleasing, I will a litle tell you of my trauel, and how I was taken in euery corner. *Der.* Yea Sir, now you speake somewhat to the matter. If your taking were like my mistaking, then perhaps we should shake hands for our fortunes. But howsoeuer it was, I pray you make me acquainted with it. *Lor.* I will, and first you shall vnderstand, that my first trauell being crosse the seas, I was taken short of my course, and by straunge people caried to a strange place: where being taken for no worse then I was, I was vsed no better then I should be. But after that I had got out of this taking, I forthwith fell to deuise with my selfe, what course I should take for my comfort. And first I would take vpon me to be a Courtier, when I would be so gay, as it honour attended vpon colours: but wise men taking me as I then was, but a foole, brought me into such a taking; that what with loue, and what with sorrow, I tooke such passions, as brought me to a weake taking. And yet I was taken among the best for an ho-

nest man, and a wel meaning. But in taking my courtly course, my word was so taken in euery corner, and my name so taken in euery booke, that I grew so afraid of takers, that I durst not almost go into any place for feare of taking. And to thinke of the sundrie kinds of taking, it is strange to thinke, that any one should be taken vp, and taken downe so many waies as I was. If I but courted a wench, I was taken for a wench; if I talked merily, I was taken for a iester; if I looked sadly, I was takē for a spie; if I were liberal, for a prodigall; if thriftie, for a snudge; if valiant, a quareller; if patient, a coward; if rich, wile; if poore, a foole: so that they, who knew not how to take any thing as it should be, tooke me to be any thing that they would haue me to be. But this was not enough: for if I gaue my word, I was taken for a surētie; if I brake it, I was taken for a banck-rupt; if I kept it, I was taken for a silly fellow; if I talked of a disease, I was taken for a Phisitian; if of a case, a Lawyer; if of armes, a Captaine; if of religion, at least a Doctor: so that (as I said before) I was taken so many waies, that I knew not well which way to take my selfe. But beyond all these, not onely my selfe was thus taken to be this and that: but my horse was takē post, my purse was taken prisoner, my word was taken hold of; and what was I, or had I, but was either taken vp or downe: my horse was taken vp, my purse was taken downe; my word was taken vp, my mind was taken downe: in brieffe, you could not be more mistaken in any thing, then I was taken for euery thing. But lest you should thinke I would chop Logicke with you, or thinke much of my breath in telling of a long tale, I will tell you, how I had like to haue

haue bene taken napping . Going to an Ordinarie to dinner with a friend of mine, who had bene with me at the taking vp of a litle money, no sooner we were entred into the house and scarce set downe to a table, short aboute an houre for couering towards supper, but we were taken vp for a rest at Primero : when being taken for a gamester, I had the tricke put vpon me; which no sooner I espied, but hauing got a small rest or two, faining an vrgent businesse, I tooke occasion to leaue off; for which cause I was taken for a cheater. Which fitting some of that place, who taking me for a fine fin-gred companion, tel a bord with me for assistance and aduise, so farre that at last, in an assurance of my fidelitie to them, and villanie to all the world besides, they put a sum of money into my hands to go to play with. Which money I no sooner was maister of, but the wind seruing well, and I in readinesse to be gone, in the still time of the night, got means to ship my selfe for *Roane*: where being a straunger, I was to take what course I well could for my cōfort. Where no sooner I was arriued, but I smiled to thinke how I had ouertooke my takers . Now comming to *Roane*, and finding diseases so rife, that an honest Phisitian might set his Apothecarie well on worke, I made a shew with a litle Allume and Copresse, to perswade such wonders of my art or studie; that who would not giue me a good fee for a fore finger? Oh, healing but a Whitloe on a Lords thumb, and the crampe in a Ladies finger, I went for the cunning man, that had a cure for all diseases . So that there was not a young wench that would haue a child; a young man that was weake sto nacked; an old fir that was deafe

nor an old Grandam blind; but would seek to me for remedie. By reason wherof, I came to the knowledge of some secrets, that made me sought to faire and neare. To be short, I was taken for such a Phisitian, that I tooke no litle profit of my patients. But lest my skill would be deferyed, and so my profession discredit, I turned all my gettings into gold, which I thipt with my selfe for *Antwerpe*. But ill gotten, ill spent; ere I came halfe way ouer sea, I was taken prisoner by a pyrate, who after he had taken my goods, kept me in hold for my raunsome: which hauing payed, and gotten away, take me euer after that what they would, I would take no proffsion vpon me; but taking the world as I could, I would thinke to vse it as I had reason. And thus much for my two first takings. Now, recouering my losses aswell as my wits and fortune would giue me leaue, I began to take an humour of loue, and by a litle eloquence and fine dissimulation, to go about (as I took her) a creature of more beautie then wit; and talke, then honestie. To be short, she was of the doubtfull gender, the common of two or three scores, or hundreds, I know not whether. Now, this illle-times mistresse I would haue a kind bouté withall, to see if my wit could helpe my purse in going beyond the wiles of a woman: but while I stood gazing on her leering eyes, she so stole away my heart with a vaine affection, that to tell you truth, I was taken in loue, and that so fast, as that to take hold of her kindnesse, she tooke hold of my cost. For if she but spake of that she liked, if my purse could purchase it, she was sure to haue it: so that in a litle time, she tooke my kindnesse so kindly, that I was counted the kindest man

man (I will not say, foole) in the world. Oh, I was not onely so taken, but so ouertaken with this taking-mistresse, that she brought me into such a taking, as is scarce worth the talking of. Oh, mine eyes were so taken with beautie, my heart with vanitie, my wits with folly, and my purse with prodigalitie; that had I not the sooner left this taker, I had left nothing for taking. Now sir, being thus wearie of my loue-taking, or my taking loue, I began to berhink me what course I were best to take for my comfort: when finding many malicious people, that could not liue quietly with their neighbours, spend much mony to litle purpose, and so feed the Lawyers with fees, that they left their purses without money: I began to thinke, that a litle studie in the law, would gaine much good in a commonwealth. Whereupon, without much circumstance I got me into the formall outside of a iolly fellow; and for the better countenance to my credite, furnished my studie with more bookes, then I had either time to reade, or wit to vnderstand. When hauing gotten acquaintance with some setters for clients, rubbing ouer my poore French, hauing *Lulston* before me, and a booke of notes I know not of whose writing, I would set on such a counselling countenance, as if I had bin at the barre, before I knew the hall: when, what with the multitude of clients and golden fees, I made such a gaine of my dissembling, that nere a Lawyer of my standing, but I caried it cleane from him, man and matter and all. In which pretie thriving course, I had not continued long, but that being found by my learning vsfit to pleade for a blacke pudding, I was taken for a petti-fogger, and not so good as a poore Clarke;

so that my condition being found to be but a practiser with cunning, to trouble the quiet of honest people, for feare of being turned ouer the barre, I was faine to turne my compasse to another course. But to tell you, during the time of my profession, how honest a man I was taken among knaues, and how contrarie among honest men, I would be loth to haue notice taken: for indeed I was rather a bench-whistler, then a bencher, and more meete (for my good conscience) to be arraigned at the barre, then to pleade at a barre. But as I said before, lest I should be taken for that I truly was, I left that course, and tooke another inuention by the back. I got me into a countrie where I was vnknown, and there hoping that men that sought to win heauen by their good deedes, would surely enrich me with their charitie: I began to connterfeit a diseased creature, and seeming with the ruefull countenance that I could frame for the purpose, I would so moue the hearts, and picke the purses of kind people, that I doubted not in time to grow a wealthy begger. And with this inuention I went forward, till, after that I had so long followed my profession, that my benefactors grew wearie of their liberalitie: it fell out by good, or ill hap rather, that I chaunced to beg of a very neat and handsome man, who seemed by his mild eye to haue a heart pitifull to the distressed. But he more cunning to prie into the knauery of my dissembling, then to cure me of my disease, if I had had any, asked me of my paine, and how long I had bene diseased. Which, when I had vnruly told him, he willed me to come home to him, and he would vndertake to heale me. Oh how glad I seemed of his kindnesse, and promised

misfed to waite vpon him, with many humble thanks. But fearing this my vnderaker should so ouertake me in taking me napping in my knauerie, I fairely tooke my way out of the towne, and neuer came within the gates after. Thus was I almost ouertaken with a water, before I had made my fire burne halfe kindly. To be short, if I should tell you all the courses that I haue taken, and how I haue bene taken in euery of them, I should make you thinke all your mistaking but a trifle, in comparifon of many a miserable taking that I haue bene in. *Dor.* Why man, so long as you neuer tooke any course so farre out of compasse, but you could guesse whereabouts you were; nor euer went so farre any way, but you could find the way home againe: let vs take hands together like good friends, and take all well that hath hit well, and warning by that hath falne amisse, to follow such a follie any further. *Lor.* You say well, but yet ere I make a full end, I will tell you how kindly I was entertained in a place, that by chaunce I tooke vp for my lodging; where being taken as indeed I was, a man of more honestie then wit, and kindnesse then wealth: after good cheare and welcome, the good man of the house taking me aside, beganne to reade me this honest lesson: My friend, quoth he, for that I take you for a man of that good disposition, that will take any thing well that is well meant; let me tell you, there be many men in the world, that with mistaking the right course of discretion, runne such wild courses as bring many of them into many pitifull takings. Some no sooner come to their land, but they take vp their rentes afore the day so long, that they are readie to make a newe

taking for an old matter : other take money for leases, ere they knowe the value of their landes : other take money for their landes, ere they well knowe the Summarie of their rentes . All these are commonly taken prisoners, either with the heart-ach for want of money ; or the heade-ach, for want of witte. And, for many of them, they are taken either with the begger, the theefe, the cheater, or the foole . Some when they haue nothing to take to, will take a wife to helpe forward a mischief, or mend an ill matter, but such a one may hap to take a wrong sow by the eare, that may bite him by the fingers for his labor : another perhaps takes vpon him to be a Phisitian, or a Surgeon, and with a pill and a plaister, makes profession of great wonders . Now he with taking vpon him much skill, takes much money, and though for want of knowledge, or through crafty villany, he is determined to make a gaine of his patient, he will one day giue him ease, and another day torment, as he finds the nature of his purse, in stead of his pulses . Now, is it not pittie, but that such a horse-leech were taken and hanged, that to make a gaine of griefe, will bring any Christian into such a taking? *Lor.* O Lord, is it possible, that there is any such creature in the world, that by so diuelish a nature will shew himselfe such a dog? *Dor.* Too many, but giue me leaue a litle. Some take vpon them to be Diuines, which only make the name of God a cloake for their knauerie : but those may rather be called lurch men, then Church-men, who as they are not troubled with much learning, so they haue no more honesty, then they may well away withall. But these who take eleuen for tenths, and yet

can scarce reade any other names, then are written in their Easter bookes, is it not pittie, but their places were taken from them, and giuen to them that could and would take more carefull paines in them? *Lor.* I take it so: but there is such straunge takings and takers in the world, that, if God did not take the more mercy on them, surely the diuell would take away a great many of them: but let them go. *Dor.* There are other that will take vpon them to be Lawyers: & these hauing scarce read a line of Littleton, onely acquainted with a common case, either in the masculine or the feminine gender, will set a solemne countenance vpon the matter, and taking money inough for fees, will bring poore clients into such a taking; that, if they perceiue not the sooner, how they are taken with the foole, they wil feelee the felues too late to be takē with the begger. Now, these kind of iniurious priuy professors of the Law will take of all hands in all matters, and when they are taken napping with the matter, they take small hearts-griefe at any punishment that doth befall them. Now, is it not pittie that such petty-foggers, as will pry into mens titles, pleade on both sides, and take all they can come by, were not taken from the barre, throwne ouer the barre, and barred for euer comming more at a bar? *Lor.* Yea, me thinkes it is a great scandall to the Law, that such an offender of the Law, as so abaseth the Law, should not be more sharply punished by the Law. *Dor.* You say well, but let me tell you a little more of takers. There are other, that if they can write Item for a yeard of Satten, a halfe elle and quarter of Taffety, fold vp a peece of Grogeram, aske what lacke you, and sell an

elle of Siprous, why he takes himselfe to be a Merchant, and that of no meane account in his parish. But let him be, if he can make a gaine of a countenance, he is worthy to liue by his wit: but, if he can take vpon wares or mony vpon dayes, not caring for the payment, till he haue enriched himselfe with other mens goods, and vpon a sudden take Lud-gate, and pay them with the banck-rupt; is it not pittie, but that he who so abuseth the credite of a Merchant, should be banished for euer comming more into the city? *Lor.* Alas, if a poore Gentleman breake day, in the payment of forty shillings, the Sergeants will take him prisoner, and all the towne will take him for a shifter: but God blesse me out of such takings. *Dor.* Well, there are so many ill takers, that it is pittie there are no better orders taken with them, but let them go. Now there are some that take all that comes, till being taken napping, the hangman taketh order with their cloths. Other take another mans wife for their own, that being taken with the matter, either fall into a pitifull taking for their knauery, or make their purses take order for their deliuey. All these with many more, are wicked courses to be taken. But to leaue all occasions of ill taking: take a good course, serue God, take a bit at home, rather then a banquet abroad, and water of thine owne, then wine of anothers: take account with thine estate for the defraying of thy charge, take no rent before the day, take no counsell with the wicked, take no pleasure in vanity, lest when you want that is necessary, you receiue comfort with sorow, or despaire in miserie: take not a wife without wealth, for it will helpe to hold loue; nor without wit, for there

is no plague to a foole; nor without grace, for it is a hell to be iealous; nor without beauty, for there is no pleasure in deformity; nor without education, for a slut will be noisome, and a nouice idle; take her not too old for conscience sake, nor too young for thriffts sake; take knowledge of her, ere you loue her, lest if you be mistaken, you were better to be without her. And last of all, take heed of a whore, a paire of dice, a parasite, a pandor, a cheater, a flatterer, and a promoter. Take a Courtier for a fine man, a Lawyer for a wise man, a Souldier for a valiant man, a Diuine for a learned man, a Merchant for a rich man, a clowne for a painefull man, and a begger for a poore man: but for an honest man, take him as you find him, in what estate soeuer he be: If he be in a great one, giue him honour; if in a meane one, giue him praise. Now if you find wealth, valour, wisdom, learning, labour, and honesty, all in one man: note him for a rare man, and take him for the best man. But, because in many it falleth out, that wealth causeth pride; wit, cunning; learning, pollicy; valor, discord; paines, griefe; and pouerty, misery: take good notice of euery man that you haue to deale withall, and haue to doe with as few as you can. And for an end, if a good occasion may be taken, slip it not; if a good gift may be taken, refuse it not: and if you haue taken a good course, leaue it not. Take God for thy chiefe good, thy wit for thy seruant, thy wife for thy companion, and thy children for thy comfort: and what thou hast, take patiently and thankfully. So, shalt thou be sure at the count-taking of all the world, thou shalt be taken into the ioyes euerlasting. This rule was I taught to

take by them, whom I iustly tooke, and truly found my good friends. So my good friend, for that I take a gelle of a gracious disposition in you, that you will not take scorne of a small gift of a poore friend: let me intreate you to take your supper and lodging vpon my charge, and this peece of gold towards the defraying of your further charges. Thus when I had thankfully taken his kind offer, and further had well taken to memory his good admonitions, I tooke my leaue of him, and according to his counsell tooke my way home againe: where, how happie I should hold my selfe to enioy your company, I shall make you know by that you find. *Dor.* Oh Sir, you haue got the start of me, it was the sute I meant to haue made to you: but since it is your fortune to be afore me, I am at your will to be disposed. *Dor.* Sir, complements are so common, that they be of small account, and therefore I will say but this: Chuse your owne time, and make your owne welcome. *Lor.* If I can requite you, I will not forget you, and let this suffice you: shortly I hope to see you, I will alwayes loue you, and wish I could euer be with you. *Dor.* What? shall we haue old aduerbes? As in absence you may see mee, so in silence you may heare me? I pray you beare me company home, and I will bring you halfe way backe againe. *Lor.* Indeed figures are good among ciphers: but honest minds haue plaine tounge, and therefore not to detract time, I am at your direction. *Dor.* I thanke you:

Let vs go.

FINIS.

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